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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-third session
10-14 May 1993 (Part I)
30 August-17 September 1993 (Part II)
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (b) Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan;

   (c) Establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations;

   (d) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions.

   Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

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7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-third session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its thirty-second session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It will be recalled that at its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that, henceforth, the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed that decision and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At its thirty-third session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Asian States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman. The Committee also agreed that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, together with the list of documentation requested. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

In resolution 45/254 A, the General Assembly decided to continue considering annually the administrative, structural and other aspects of the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization, and invited the Secretary-General to report accordingly.

The Assembly, in resolution 47/212, requested the Secretary-General to provide the Committee for Programme and Coordination and other concerned intergovernmental bodies with all relevant information which will enable them to identify and analyse the programmatic aspects and consequences of the restructuring of the Secretariat in the areas of their competence and invited them to submit their comments and recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In the same resolution, the General Assembly

further requested the Secretary-General to submit an analytical report on all aspects of the restructuring of the Secretariat, including its effects on programme delivery, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, in the context of the implementation of resolutions 41/213, 44/211, 43/213, 44/200, 46/232 and 47/212.

In resolution 46/189, section IV, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to improve the programmatic content of the statements of programme budget implications and to propose in such statements or in revised estimates alternative solutions for carrying out new activities, as required by resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. In the same resolution, it also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-third session, a report on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/213, confirmed the above-mentioned requests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on provision of relevant information for identification and analysis of programmatic aspects and consequences of the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/C.5/48/...).

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/C.5/48/...).

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedure for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/C.5/48/...).

4. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Pursuant to its terms of reference (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex), the Committee will consider the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General shall provide the Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary period; the Committee shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals; and it shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of its recommendations.

However, without prejudice to the regulations and rules pertaining to the submission of the proposed programme budget to the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the General Assembly, in decision 47/458 of 23 December 1992, invited the Secretary-General to submit his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session, as soon as possible after April 1993.

It will be recalled that in accordance with the new budget process established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, the Committee, at its thirty-second session, considered an outline of the proposed programme budget and submitted conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly. In resolution 47/213, the Assembly decided on a preliminary estimate of resources for the budget and the size of the contingency fund. The Assembly reaffirmed that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote a greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget.

Also in resolution 47/213, the Assembly took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General, of paragraph 223 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-second session, and of the views expressed by Member States on priorities, and requested the Secretary-General, when preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, to give particular attention to them and to the priorities contained in the introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and endorsed by General Assembly resolutions 45/253 and 45/255 of 21 December 1990.

At its thirty-second session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination took note of the report of the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/47/4), but expressed disappointment concerning the lack of substance in that report. In resolution 47/212, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its forty-eighth session, a report on all issues related to the creation, suppression, reclassification and redeployment of posts.

Documentation

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (in fascicle form) (A/48/...).

Report of the Secretary-General on all issues related to the creation, suppression, reclassification and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/48/...).

(b) Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan

At its thirty-second session, the Committee recommended that the prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan should be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session. The prototype should take into

account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and should address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/214, endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. It endorsed also the recommendation of the Committee that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts should be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the prototype of the new format of the medium-term plan.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan (A/C.5/48/...).

(c) Establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations

It will be recalled that in its resolutions 46/185 B and 46/189 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session to establish a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations.

At its thirty-second session, the Committee stressed the need for a closer link between programme performance and budget performance reports and recognized the need for the direct responsibility of programme managers in the implementation of mandated programmes. It emphasized that responsibility and accountability, as well as improvements in the techniques and methodology for evaluation and budget and programme performance reports, were essential for progress in the implementation of the programme budget and in the capacity of Member States to assess accurately the implementation of their mandates and decisions.

In resolution 47/214, section V, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the establishment of such a system and invited the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations (A/C.5/48/...).

(d) Evaluation

At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee recommended that the in-depth evaluation to be scheduled for consideration in 1993 would be for the programme on international protection of and assistance to refugees.

At its thirtieth session, the Committee examined a note by the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the programme on the protection of and assistance to refugees, which recommended the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 1993. The Committee took note of this proposal, on the understanding that the progress report on the evaluation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East would be submitted to the Committee in 1993, at which time a decision on the final report on UNRWA would be taken.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a timetable for evaluation, according to which it will undertake, at its thirty-third session, a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirtieth session on the evaluation of the major programme on human settlements. The General Assembly, in resolution 45/253, endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

In accordance with a decision taken by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session, the Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the human rights programme.

At its thirty-third session, the Committee will also have before it a note by the Secretariat on topics for future in-depth evaluations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: UNHCR (E/AC.51/1993/2).

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme of UNRWA (E/AC.51/1993/3).

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirtieth session on the evaluation of the major programme on human settlements (E/AC.51/1993/4).

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1993/5).

Note by the Secretariat on topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1993/6).

5. Coordination questions

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

It will be recalled that, in its resolution 1988/64, the Economic and Social Council decided that, in future, the Joint Meetings should be held in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in order to facilitate the participation of the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at a high level as well as the participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, and that the duration of the Meetings should be sufficient to allow for an adequate exchange of views among participants.

In the same resolution, the Council also decided that the Joint Meetings should take the following measures relating to their work:

(a) Members of the two Committees should identify well in advance the specific issues for discussion under each topic and hold a concrete exchange of views, focusing on practical measures to solve the coordination problems identified;

(b) The background papers prepared by the Administrative Committee on Coordination should include appropriate action-oriented proposals, so as to assist the Joint Meetings in achieving concrete results;

(c) Steps should be taken to ensure effective follow-up at the intergovernmental and intersecretariat levels of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings.

In resolution 47/214, section IV, the General Assembly emphasized the need for enhanced coordination in the United Nations system and welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to assign a high priority to coordination and to work with the executive heads of the organizations of the system to develop new approaches for collaboration with the purpose of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination. It endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-second session, on the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991.

In the same resolution, the Assembly took note of the decision of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination should discuss the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system.

At its thirty-second session, the Committee decided to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that, without prejudice to the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/64, the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Committee for Programme and Coordination be held in the spring of 1993.

The General Assembly, in resolution 47/219, section XX, recommended that the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Committee for Programme and Coordination should take place in New York.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1992 (E/1993/...).

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that reports of the Joint Inspection Unit would, in future, be reviewed first by the Committee as to programming aspects and that, to that end, the Committee should be authorized to examine them even without the written comments of the Secretary-General if they were not available; the comments of the Secretary-General could be made orally to the Committee. That decision was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/238. The Committee further decided that at its organizational meeting each year, it would select the Joint Inspection Unit reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the Secretariat, including the titles of reports projected for the following two years.

It will be recalled that in resolution 45/237, the General Assembly encouraged the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to take into account the following measures in order to enhance further the usefulness of its reports to the governing bodies of the participating organizations: (a) to take a more selective approach in drawing up its work programme to give greater attention to management, budgetary and administrative issues, including those identified by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on the administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and by the Board of Auditors in its audit opinions and reports, as well as those areas of the United Nations system undergoing reform; (b) to make every possible effort to issue its reports well in advance of the meetings of the governing bodies of its participating organizations, in particular the General Assembly, and of the relevant subsidiary bodies, to ensure that the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, where pertinent, are issued in accordance with existing regulations for the timely receipt of documentation; (c) to make every effort to shorten its reports and to include in them a summary of its recommendations in order to facilitate the consideration of its

reports; (d) to provide a more detailed commentary in its annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its recommendations by the United Nations and by the other participating organizations of the Unit; and (e) to concentrate on specific and practical operational problems and to address more precisely defined questions.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

In resolution 1979/41, the Council decided that the provisional agendas for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for review, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency between the documentation of those bodies and the overall documentation requested by the Council and other subsidiary bodies and greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

The Council, in resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of its resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully Council resolution 1979/41 in submitting to the Council for consideration their provisional agendas together with the list of requested documentation, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in requests for documentation and improving reporting procedures. In this connection, it will be recalled that the Council has urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation (see Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-third session

The report of the Committee on its thirty-third session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 and the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

Attention is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/114, in which the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight policy recommendations and decisions resulting from their deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council.

Annex I

Draft programme of work

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1993

Friday, 2 April

Election of officers [1]

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [2]

Provisional agenda and note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/AC.51/1993/1 and E/AC.51/1993/L.1)

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6]

Selection of the report(s) to be considered by the Committee at its thirty-third session

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION: FIRST PART

Monday, 10 May

Coordination questions [5]

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1992 (E/1993/...)

Tuesday, 11 May and Wednesday, 12 May

Programme questions [4]

(d) Evaluation

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: UNHCR (E/AC.51/1993/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of UNRWA (E/AC.51/1993/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirtieth session on the evaluation of the major programme on human settlements (E/AC.51/1993/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1993/5)

Note by the Secretariat on topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1993/6)

Thursday, 13 May (a.m.) — Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Thursday, 13 May (p.m.) — Informal consultations on:

Coordination questions [5]

Friday, 14 May (a.m.) — Informal consultations on:

Programme questions [4]

(d) Evaluation

Friday, 14 May (p.m.) — Adoption of the report of the Committee on the first part of its thirty-third session

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION: SECOND PART

Monday, 30 August and Wednesday, 1 September (a.m.) — Review of efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [3]

Report of the Secretary-General on provision of relevant information for identification and analysis of programmatic aspects and consequences of the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/C.5/48/...)

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of restructuring of the Secretariat (A/C.5/48/...)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedure for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/C.5/48/...)

Wednesday, 1 September (p.m.) to Friday,3 September

Programme questions [4]

(b) Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan

Report of the Secretary-General on the prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan (A/C.5/48/...)

(c) Establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the establishment of a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations (A/C.5/48/...)

Monday, 6 September to Tuesday, 14 September

Programme questions [4]

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (in fascicle form) (A/48/...)

Report of the Secretary-General on all issues related to the creation, suppression, reclassification and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/48/...)

Wednesday, 15 September

Informal consultations

Thursday, 16 September and Friday, 17 September

Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee [7]

Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee

Adoption of the report of the Committee on the second part of its thirty-third session

Annex II

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 1993

	Term expires on 31 December
Bahamas	1994
Brazil	1993
Bulgaria	1993
Burundi	1993
Chile	1993
China	1995
Colombia	1993
Congo	1993
Egypt	1995
France	1994
Germany	1993
Ghana	1994
India	1993
Indonesia	1993
Iraq	1993
Italy	1993
Japan	1995
Kenya	1995
Netherlands	1993
Nicaragua	1995
Nigeria	1993
Norway	1993
Pakistan	1993
Poland	1993
Republic of Korea	1995
Russian Federation	1994
Togo	1995
Trinidad and Tobago	1993
Uganda	1993
Ukraine	1993
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1993
United States of America	1994
Uruguay	1994
Zambia	1994